

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 06542 221600Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 INT-05 GSA-02 /084 W
-----021060 230133Z /63

R 221433Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 534
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EMIN, CIPEC, CG, ECIN
SUBJECT: CIPEC MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: KINSHASA 3905 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE ZAIRIAN DEPARTMENT OF
MINES, NGONGO SULUBIKA, THE THIRD ANNUAL CIPEC MINISTERIAL MEETING
WILL
OPEN IN KINSHASA JULY 3, RUNNING UNTIL EITHER JULY 5 OR 6. THE
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MEETING,
FOR WHICH NO AGENDA HAS YET BEEN SET, IS TO BE HELD IN KINSHASA'S
NEW WORLD TRADE CENTER. THE PRELIMINARY EXPERTS MEETING IS SET TO
BEGIN JUNE 24. NGONGO DECLINED TO COMMENT ON WHAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED.
AT THE MEETING, SAYING IT WAS THE JOB OF THE EXPERTS MEETING TO SET
THE AGENDA.

2. SINCE LAST MONTH'S SHABA INVASION, ZAIRE'S POSITION CONCERNING PRODUCTION CUTBACKS MAY WELL HAVE CHANGED. WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY THE GOZ HAD PAID LIP SERVICE TO CUTS, GOING ALONG WITH ZAMBIA AND PERU, THERE WAS ONLY LIMITED LIKELIHOOD THAT THE CUTS WOULD ACTUALLY BE ENFORCED. NOW, FACED WITH THE DEFACTO ENFORCEMENT OF THEIR PROMISED 15 PER CENT CUT CAUSED BY THE WAR, THE GOZ IS MORE LIKELY TO ARGUE STRONGLY FOR ACROSS THE BOARD PRODUCER CUTS TO PUSH UP COPPER PRICES. (IN FACT, SOZACOM, THE STATE OWNED MARKETING COMPANY, HAS ALREADY DECLARED A 50 PER CENT FORCE MAJEURE). IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT SOZACOM HAS SUDDENLY SHOWN AN INTEREST IN THE CIPEC MEETING, IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THEIR EARLIER INDIFFERENCE. THIS IS ALL THE MORE STRIKING GIVEN THE COMPLETE LACK OF PRESS PLAY THE MEETING HAS RECEIVED HERE, THE ONE AND ONLY MENTION SO FAR HAVING COME IN EARLY APRIL.
CUTLER

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